



6/14/84

Inspection of Paxton Avenue Lagoon and U.S. Drum

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On Thursday morning June 7, 1984, at about 7:45 a.m. I was on the Paxton Avenue Landfill in Southeastern Chicago. I met Bernie Piotrowski there and asked him to show me the lagoon and U.S. Drums. He was a recent employee and did not know the whereabouts of the lagoon. However, we did inspect U.S. Drums. Then I went to Land and Lakes Landfill. They asked me to contact James Cohey, the owner-manager, for permission to do my inspection. Mr. Cohey told me over the telephone that his environmentalist Jim Ambroso was attending a funeral, but he would be available to go around with me the following day. I made an appointment to meet him on Friday at 1:00 p.m. Later during a telephone contact with Dan Smith the environmentalist for Paxton Landfill, I requested that he be there or tell Burney Piotrowski where the lagoon was so I could inspect it Friday afternoon. Mr. Smith also referred me to Phil Willman of the Attorney General of Illinois Office concerning a pending lawsuit with Steve Martell about U.S. Drums. On Friday afternoon June 8, I inspected the Paxton Avenue lagoon and Land & Lakes Landfill. The following are my conclusions:

1. The Emergency Action Plans for the Paxton Avenue Lagoon and U.S. Drums, that were prepared by TAT, describe accurately the situations there. One spot at Land & Lakes landfill where "oil seeps" were indicated seemed to have been covered with new soil last Fall.
2. Neither the Paxton Avenue Landfill nor the Land & Lakes Landfill claim ownership of the strip of land where the lagoon was, therefore title for that strip should be searched out.
3. The soil of U.S Drums is badly polluted. Therefore, not only the 1,700 drums on the site should be removed, but the surface soil should be scraped off to a depth that could be determined by soil analysis.
4. Both the Lagoon and U.S. Drums present an eminent health hazard and therefore an immediate removal action is recommended.
5. Mr. Phil Willman of the Attorney General of Illinois Office told me that Steve Martell is liable to clean up the soil on the U.S. Drums site because the pollution is attributable to drums he had on the

site previously, that he has later removed. However, the drums presently on site are attributed to the previous owner Earth II Company that was managed by Antony Tellis. Mr. Willman added that Steve Martell agreed to take the responsibility of cleaning up the site of the remaining drums too, if he would be permitted to continue running the Paxton Avenue Landfill. Therefore, our attorney on the project should contact Mr. Phil Willman and agree on a deadline to be given to Mr. Martell to begin and finish the cleanup.

6. There are very probably hazardous material drums buried ⁱⁿ Land and Lakes landfill, Paxton Avenue Landfill, and possibly the U.S. Drums site. Cleanup of such drums may be undertaken by a remedial action.
7. The cost estimates made by TAT in the EAPs should be revised upward.

cc: G. Regan
R. Bowden

S. Madany 6/14/84

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